

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /071 W
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R 160723Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4473

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PDEV ET

SUBJECT: NOTICE TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

1. AMHARIC RADIO, MAY 13 AND ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF MAY 14 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENTS URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO "FUNCTION NORMALLY." PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINED (BEING POUCHED) STATED THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS OF THESE SCHOOLS.

2. ARTICLE STATED THAT IN KEEPING WITH NEW ECONOMIC POLICY OF ETHIOPIA, EDUCATION FIELD SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED BUT UNTIL DESIRED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS ACHIEVED AND NEW EDUCATIONAL REVIEW COMPLETED, SERVICES OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS ESSENTIAL AND SHOULD CONTINUE.

3. ONE OF PROBLEMS WITH PRIVATE SCHOOLS, ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT, IS FRICTION BETWEEN OWNERS AND TEACHERS AS TO DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME THEY DERIVE FROM STUDENTS. UNTIL NEW DIRECTIVES ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS, CURRENTLY UNDER PREPARATION, ARE ISSUED BY MINED, CONFIDENTIAL

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OWNERS AND TEACHERS URGED TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS JOINTLY AND PRO-

VIDE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT CARRIED MINED WARNING THAT IF ANY SCHOOL IS CLOSED BECAUSE OF STRIKES OR "PRIVATE INTERESTS," NECESSARY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO SAID THAT SECOND SEMESTER EXAMS (IN CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR) MUST BE TAKEN AND PASSED IF STUDENTS ARE TO OBTAIN THEIR CERTIFICATES. THIS REQUIREMENT IS STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY AND STUDENTS WILL NOT GET SECOND CHANCE IF THEY FAIL TO MEET IT.

6. MISSION OFFICER IN DISCUSSION WITH MINED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRIVATE AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL SCHOOLS LEARNED THAT SINCE 25 PERCENT OF SCHOOLS IN ADDIS ABABA PRIVATELY RUN, MINED SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE FINANCES TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THESE SCHOOLS. SECOND, TIMING OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT COINCIDED WITH CONTRACT RENEWAL/BOOK ORDERING TIME FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO REASSURE PRIVATE SCHOOLS SO THESE PREPARATIONS CONTINUE.

COMMENT: TERMINATION OF EDUCATION FOR THOSE WHO FAIL EXAMINATIONS PREDICTABLY VERY EMOTIONAL ISSUE WHICH MAY WELL EXACERBATE CURRENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES FURTHER. WE JUDGE ANNOUNCEMENT INTER ALIA TO BE RESPONSE TO CURRENT SPATE OF STUDENT STRIKES AND ALSO INTENDED TO PROTECT PRIVATE SCHOOLS UNTIL EPMG PLANS AND RESOURCES PERMIT THEIR REPLACEMENT BY INSTITUTIONS MORE IN TUNE WITH ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM.
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